

# It's Great to be Green!

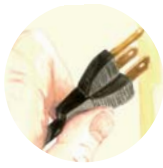
Welcome to the City of Gaithersburg's first green building. It's called a green building because it has lots of features to save money, improve health and help the environment. Look for signs throughout the building telling you about all the unique, environmentally friendly features.

## HOW BUILDINGS IMPACT THE ENVIRONMENT

Buildings are everywhere! They impact our natural environment, our economy, our health, and our productivity. In the U.S., buildings are responsible for about:



30% of material use



36% of total energy use



30% of greenhouse emissions



12% of water use



30% of waste

## WHY BUILD GREEN?

Green buildings provide important benefits:

- **Environmental benefits.** They conserve natural resources, reduce waste, and protect air and water quality, biodiversity, and ecosystem health.
- **Economic benefits.** They save money (especially on our energy bills!) and support the local economy.
- **Health benefits.** People who work in green buildings breathe cleaner air and enjoy a better working environment.
- **Community benefits.** Communities with green buildings require less water, sewers, and landfills, and may even have less traffic.

## HOW DO YOU MEASURE "GREEN"?

The U.S. Green Building Council® set up the LEED rating system with six categories that all buildings have to comply with in order to call themselves "green". Look for these symbols throughout the building to see what makes our Youth Center green:



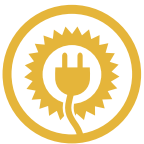
### SUSTAINABLE SITE PLANNING

- Encourage building on appropriate sites
- Reuse existing buildings and sites
- Protect and restore natural and agricultural areas
- Reduce automobile use



### WATER EFFICIENCY

- Encourage the efficient use of water
- Landscape to reduce demands for public water supply and treatment



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ATMOSPHERE

- Improve energy efficiency
- Encourage renewable and alternative energy sources
- Support ozone protection plans



### MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

- Select new materials and resources that reduce environmental impacts, require less energy to make and use, create less pollution, and use up fewer natural resources
- Prevent waste and encourage recycling



### INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

- Protect and improve our health by maintaining good indoor air quality through proper ventilation and use of non-toxic, low emission materials
- Provide comfortable, adjustable lighting and room temperature
- Provide us with a connection to the outdoor environment

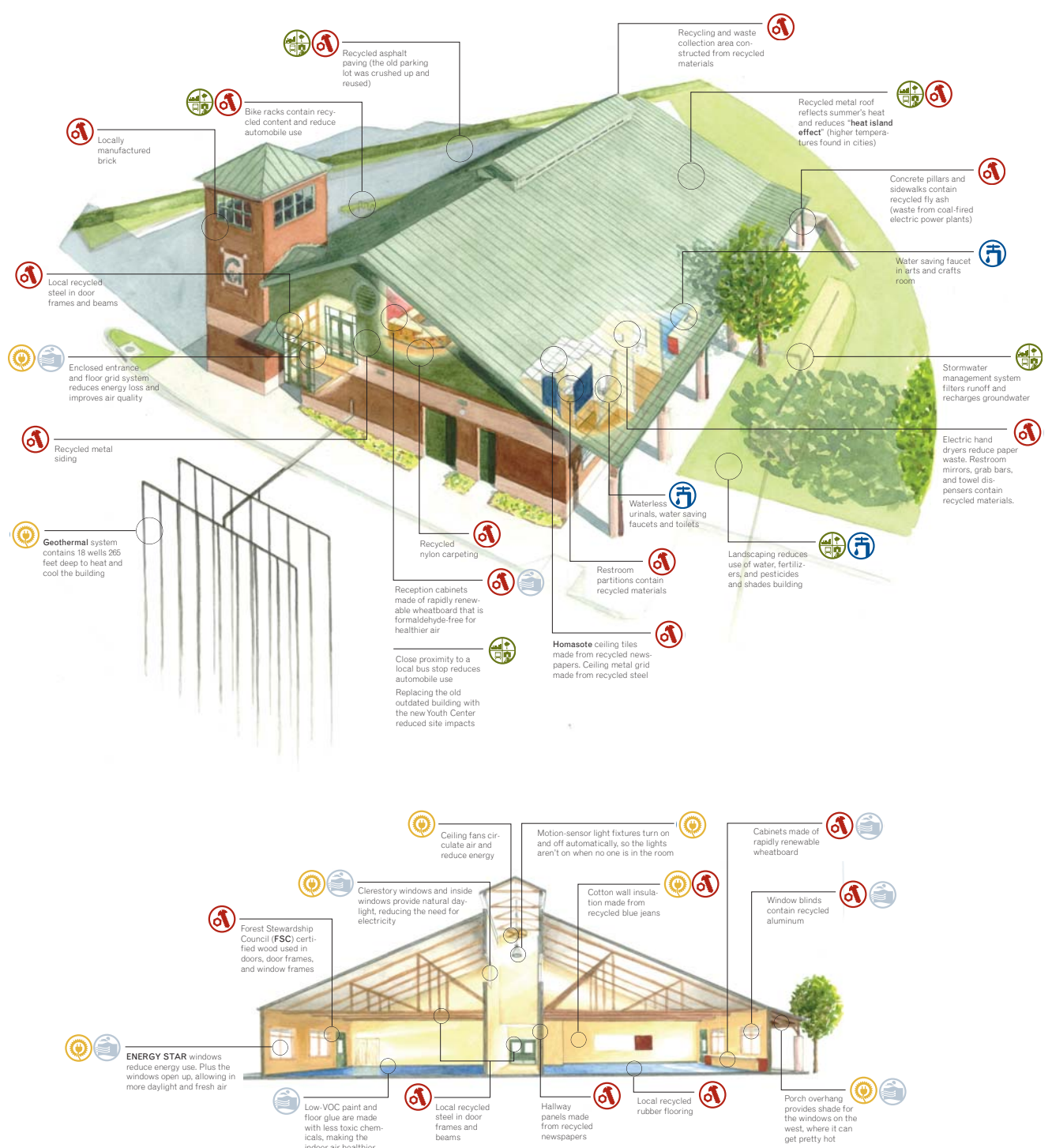


### INNOVATION AND DESIGN

- Encourage green design creativity

\*The Youth Center's design, construction and operation are in accordance with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) rating system, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to provide a national standard for what constitutes a "green building".

## Features of Our Green Building:



Facts and figures are presented for informational purposes and are subject to change. The City of Gaithersburg does not approve, endorse or attest to the accuracy or completeness of this information.



Gaithersburg  
A CHARACTER COUNTS! CITY